

## COMPLETERS GRANT

### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

#### **1. What is the Completers Grant?**

The Completers Grant, funded by the Louisiana Board of Regents, is designed to incentivize near-completers in high demand fields such as healthcare and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) at Louisiana's public two- and four-year institutions to earn their undergraduate degree and to incentivize enrollment in and completion of short-term credential programs at two-year institutions.

#### **2. What are the eligibility requirements?**

You must:

- Be a Louisiana resident; and
- File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the academic year during which the award will be received; and
- Meet one of the priority criteria listed in question 3; and
- Be enrolled through the 14<sup>th</sup> class day; and
- For credit programs, students shall meet the enrolling institution's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy for receipt of Title IV aid; or
- For non-credit programs, students shall successfully complete course(s) sufficient to continue in their program of student as determined by the institution.

#### **3. How do I qualify for the Completers Grant?**

You must meet one of the criteria listed below:

- Expect to complete your program of study/graduating in the fall 2021 and have significantly depleted or have no other sources of financial aid, or
- Are expected to complete your program of study/graduate in spring 2022 and have significantly depleted or have no other sources of financial aid, or
- Are expected to complete your program of study/graduate in the summer 2022 and have significantly depleted or have no other sources of financial aid.

#### **4. Who determines if I am eligible?**

Your school will determine if you meet the eligibility criteria and whether you will receive a Completers Grant.

**5. How much am I eligible to receive from the Completers Grant?**

The maximum amount you could receive is the total of the tuition, fees, and books set forth on your fee bill.

**6. Who determines how much I will receive?**

Your school will determine how much you will receive.

**7. How much is available for the Completers Grant?**

The allocation amount for this program is \$13.3 million dollars.

**8. If I receive a Completers Grant in the fall of 2021, am I guaranteed to receive it for the spring of 2022?**

If you received the grant in fall 2021, you are guaranteed to receive the grant in spring 2022 IF:

- You have between 15 – 30 hours remaining when you first receive the grant, AND
- You have met the satisfactory academic progress requirements as indicated in the answer to question 2.

Note that you are not necessarily guaranteed to receive the same amount in both semesters.

**9. How many semesters may I receive Completers Grant?**

You may receive Completers Grant for a maximum of two consecutive semesters. For example, if you receive Completers Grant for the first time in the fall of 2021, you will be eligible to receive one more payment in the following spring of 2022.

**10. What schools are participating in the Completers Grant program?**

All public institutions in the state are participating in the program. This includes all schools who are part of the LSU system, the SU system, the UL system, and the LCTC system.

**11. When does the Completers Grant start?**

Awards for the Completers Grant will be made starting the Fall 2021 semester.

**12. When does the Completers Grant end?**

The allocation amount for this program is \$13.3 million dollars. The Completers Grant will be available until all funding is exhausted, or September 30, 2023, whichever is later.

**13. Can Completers Funds be used to pay previous student debt?**

Only current tuition, fees, and books appearing on your fee bill.

**14. Are students pursuing a second bachelor's degree eligible for the Completers Grant?**

Students who have already earned a bachelor's degree are not eligible to receive funding from the Completers Grant.

**15. What is the difference between "exhaust" and "significantly depleted (the guidance document vs. the bulletin)**

The framework in the bulletin references significantly depleted resources and the guidance document references exhausted eligibility for federal student loans and other Title IV aid. The terms can be used synonymously. Providing a student with an award from the Completers Grant should be made after all other resources are allocated to the student's account.

**16. Procedures for identification of transfer and/or re-entering students which ensure such students receive awards on the same basis as continuing students." Concerns with this language as this is specifically related to Go Grant.**

If you have a student transferring from one of your system colleges to another and the student was awarded the Completers Grant at their previous school, they should be granted the opportunity for the Completers Grant at the new college.

**17. In the webinar, it was stated that students had to have completed verification. On the FAQ's they only state that verification is suspended for 21-22. Since some students may still need to be verified for various reasons, can LOSFA clarify the response.**

LOSFA is following the guidance of USDE regarding verification. We do not require a student to complete verification in order to be awarded the Completers Grant. However, completing verification may allow a student to become eligible for Title IV aid, allowing the school to expand the use of their Completers Grant to other eligible students not yet awarded.

**18. Just to clarify, students with prior Bachelor's degrees are not eligible, but students with prior Associates degrees or certificates do qualify**

Funding should be reserved for students completing their initial associate's or bachelor's degree.

**19. How do we handle over-award situations for a student who received the Completers grant but then was awarded an additional fund? Would we reduce the Spring award in case of a Fall over-award?**

There should be no instances where a student receives a refund from the Completers Grant. In cases of an over-award, the Completers Grant should be reduced to allow for the other financial aid. Completers Grant awards should be viewed semester by semester and not on the academic year because these students may not be enrolled the entire academic year.

**20. Are students who are in default eligible for the completers grant? The student may not have exhausted all of their Title IV eligibility but cannot access due to default.**

Students who are not eligible for Title IV aid are not eligible for Completers Grant.

For more information on the Completers Grant, go to [www.mylosfa.com/CompletersGrant](http://www.mylosfa.com/CompletersGrant) or email [completers@la.gov](mailto:completers@la.gov)